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Pol 2 L. Saltonstall
Pol 3 Missiles

MEET THE PRESS, WRC-TV, and the NBC Network

6 P.M., Sunday, November 24, 1957

Ned Brooks, Moderator. PANEL: Charles W. Corddry, Jr., UP; Jack Bell, AP;
May Craig, Portland EXPRESS; Lawrence Spivak, "Meet The Press."

SENATOR LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, R., Mass., Interviewed.

(EXCERPT)

After discussion of Mr. Holaday and the missiles program:

MR. CORDDRY: Senator, we must be in something of a fix, we think from these answers, and I would like to ask you if we are that way because we failed to evaluate Soviet progress accurately, or is it because the administration did not tell the people what it knew about Soviet progress.

SEN. SALTONSTALL: I think, Mr. Corddry, we underestimated the Soviet's ability to get ahead. I think we would be foolish to say anything differently. Now, on the administration not telling the people, or keeping too many things in the "security" guise, I think you have got to think of this. We have tried all the time to be a leader in the disarmament negotiations. Now certainly the two things don't balance. On the one hand you are trying to disarm and on the other you are saying we are building up all these new weapons all the time.

MR. CORDDRY: But might not we be told what we know of what the Russians are doing? The sputnik came as a vast surprise to us.

SEN. SALTONSTALL: I have had many talks with Mr. Allen Dulles for whom I have a high regard and we have got to realize--and I don't think this is giving any security away--we have got to realize that we can't say factually that this is so, the reasons for this, until we know from an actual experiment that it is so. Our intelligence is not--it can't be--as good as that.

MR. CORDDRY: In that connection, there is a report printed everywhere today and yesterday which must have come from pretty good sources that the Russians will not have intercontinental ballistics missiles and operational combat units for another two years. Are we to give that report any credence at all?

SEN. SALTONSTALL: It depends where it came from, Mr. Corddry. Now if you will tell me where it came from

MR. CORDDRY: I am not at liberty to do that, sir, but you might take a guess.

SEN. SALTONSTALL: I just got home Friday morning and I had not heard that. I expect to hear Mr. Dulles on Tuesday.

MR. BROOKS: Senator, are you completely satisfied with the operation of our intelligence service? Mr. Dulles's organization that you mentioned?